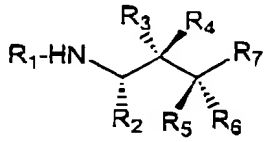
application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of copending International Application No. PCT/US98/25964, filed December 8, 1998 and published in English, which claims priority, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), from provisional application Serial No. 60/067,959, filed December 8, 1997, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 23 without prejudice and replace claims 1 and 3 with the following further amended claims.

1. (twice amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein

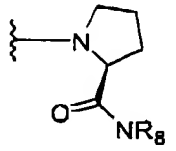
R_1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbobenzyloxy-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2$-Phenyl, and $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)_2$;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl; R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl, wherein R_3 and R_4 are not both hydroxyl and wherein R_3 and R_4 are either not oxygen or are a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen; R_6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen, wherein R_5 and R_6 are either a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group or both separately hydrogen;

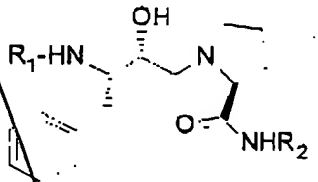
R_7 is a radical represented by the formula:



wherein R_8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of -$(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl);

with a proviso that, if either R_3 or R_4 is hydroxyl, then R_1 is neither hydrogen nor carbobenzyloxy-.

3. (thrice amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein

R_1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- , carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-; and

R_2 is a radical selected from the group consisting of -$(H)_2$, and -H(t-Butyl).